served by Sir Ganga Ram Employees Union on the Hospital management was received by the Delhi Administration. The strike notice raised a 27-point charter of general demands relating among others, to regularisation of contract workers and temporary employees, staff quarters for nurses and other employees, overtime allowance, reinstatement of employees discharged from service during 1966 to 1986, free medical ambulance facilities for family members of the employees, etc. On receiving the copy of the strike notice, the Conciliation Machinery intervened on 16th July, 1986. Till 25-7-1986, four meetings have been held in an effort to resolve the dispute. Conciliation efforts are continuing.

**Delay in the issue of passports by the Regional Passport Office, Ernakulam**

821. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many applications for passports are pending clearance at the Regional Passport Office, Ernakulam;

(a) how many applications for pasding for (i) more than three months and (ii) for more than six months;

(c) how many complaints have been received against the office with regard to the issue and renewal of passports during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) how many among the staff are there for more than three years; and

(e) whether Government propose to transfer those staff who have been posted there for more than three years to improve the service; if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K R. NARAYANAN): (a) 12685 applications for passports were pending clearance as on 30-6-1986 at the Regional Passport Office, Ernakulam.

(b) (i) 2060 applications for passports were pending for more than three months and (ii) 60 applications for passports were pending for more than six months.

(c) Number of complaints received against the office with regard to the issue and ronewal of passports during the last three years as follows:—

| Year | Issue of passports | Renewal of passports |
|---|---|---|
| 1983 . . . | 5 | 2 |
| 1984 . . . | 6 | 4 |
| 1985 . . . | 14 | 3 |
| 1986 . . . (Up to 30th June, 1986) | 6 | 1 |

(d) One group 'A' officer, 50 group 'C' officials and 7 group 'D' officials are working in the Regional Passport office, Ernakulam for over three years.

(e) No, Sir; a fixed tenure of three years has not been laid down for transfer of all staff categories in the Recruitment Rules of the Central Passport Organisation. Group 'A' and 'B' Gazetted Officers are generally transferred from one passport office to another after completion of three years stay at one station, except due to exigencies of public service or on compassionate grounds. Moreover, officers superannuating within a period of three yearss are retained/ transferred as far as possible near their home-town. As regards Group 'C' clerical staff, they are generally transferred on their promotion or due to reduction of posts in a particular office or when it becomes necessary to rransfer them in public interest.

**Bank dacoities in Bombay**

822. SHRI K. GOPALAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of bank dacoities which took place in Bombay since March, 1986;

(b) what are the names of the banks, the amount looted and also the dates of the incidenths;

(c) whether any arrests have been made in this connection; and

(d) what steps are being taken to strengthen security measures in banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) Information regarding the number of bank dacoities which took place in public sector banks in Bombay since March, 1986, amounts involved therein and dates of occurrence, as reported by Reserve Bank of India, is given below:—

(Rs. in Lakh)

| Name of bank | Amount involved | Date of occurrence |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Indian Overseas Bank, Bandra . . | .. | 4-3-86 |
| 2. Bank of Maharashtra Dadar Shivaji Park | 2·67 | 20-3-86 |
| 3. New Bank of India, Chembur-Diamond Garden . . . . . | 5·91 | 28-4-86 |
| 4. Punjab National Bank, Borivali (E) . . | 1·91 | 22-5-86 |
| 5. Bank of Maharashtra, Ghatkoper (E) | 2.21 | 9-6-86 |

(c) The Reserve Bank of India have intimated that no arrests have so far been reported to them by public sector banks.

(d) Although banks' security is dependent to a considerable extent on the general security environment, the banks themselves have *inter-alia* been taking steps, such as appointment of Armed Security Guards, installation of appropriate alarm systems, etc. in branches depending on the risk factor involved, with a view to improving their security arrangements and preventng occurrence of dacoities/robberies. In addition, in order to motivate bank employees, the general public and the police to resist robbers/dacoits, a Scheme of rewards has been announced.

**Appointment of Chairman in the Dhanalakshmi Bank Limited**

823. SHRI K. GOPALAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at present Dhanalakshmi Bank Limited is without a full-time Chairman;

(b) if so, when did the last Chairman left the post and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the list of panel was sent to the Reserve Bank of India by Board of Directors; if so, when; and

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the affirmative, what are the reasons for not appointing the Chairman by the Reserve Bank of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The last full time Chairman of Dhanalakshmi Bank Ltd. handed over charge of his office with effect from the close of business on 11-1-1986, on personal reasons.